United Nations S/2012/896

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2012

Original: English

Identical letters dated 29 November 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We refer herein to the attack on United Nations peacekeepers in Syria that occurred today, 29 November 2012. This serious incident, mainly involving members of the Austrian and Croatian contingent serving with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), took place on the road between UNDOF headquarters, "Camp Faouar", and the airport in Damascus. A convoy of more than 140 soldiers, mostly Austrian and Croatian, of the UNDOF AUSBATT battalion on rotation was attacked on its way to the airport by unidentified fire. Four soldiers were injured, two of them seriously. The airport road, which had been closed earlier by the Syrian authorities, was reopened for passage immediately prior to the attack. Despite previous clearance by the Syrian authorities, the convoy was attacked.

Austria and Croatia strongly condemn this unacceptable attack on United Nations peacekeepers and request that a full investigation of the attack be conducted and those responsible held accountable. In this regard, we would like to emphasize that Syria must ensure the security of all UNDOF personnel and other peacekeeping forces carrying out their mandate and take all necessary steps to avoid similar attacks in the future. Most recently, the Security Council, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 2052 (2012), unanimously called on all parties to ensure the security of, as well as unhindered and immediate access for, United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Martin **Sajdik**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ranko **Vilović**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Croatia to the United Nations

12-62415 (E) 031212

Please recycle